

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document. However, Applicants do not understand the Examiner's comment that "Some" of the priority documents have been received. There is one priority document in this application (JP 2002-189015). It was filed with the initial application and has been acknowledged as having been received.

35 U.S.C. §112

The claims have been amended to overcome the objections under this section.

35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1-2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mimura et al (EP 0952452). Claims 4-5 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Mimura et al (EP 0952452). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Mimura et al (EP

0952452) in view of Mimura et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,080,364). Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Mimura et al (EP 0952452) in view of Koakutsu (EP 0359049). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Mimura et al (EP 0952452) in view of Kodosky et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,901,221). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to an automatic analyzer having a reaction vessel for reacting a sample and a reagent and an analysis part for analyzing a reaction in the reaction vessel. A display means is provided for displaying an operation flow having all of the operation steps required for starting up the automatic analyzer. The set up operation is displayed in boxes in a time series. The display means displays at least one operation step required to be operated at the time of starting up operation and another operation step that is not required to be operated at the time of starting up operation. These two operation steps are displayed in different manners. This way, the automatic analyzer can correct operations required for starting up.

According to the present invention, a graphic user interface (GUI) displays all of the required steps for starting up the automatic analyzer in icons (boxes). The GUI displays the box of a step to be presently operated in a manner different from one that does not need to be presently operated. The necessary operation can be

displayed by clicking the icon that is displayed in the particular manner corresponding to an operation that is presently required.

None of these features is disclosed by any of the cited references. For example, Mimura et al discloses that items of reagents, calibration, accuracy control, or the like, are displayed as a menu. These are merely displayed as selected items that are not limited or restricted by their need to be presently operated. For example, if calibration is selected, the remaining available hours of a reagent (or analysis item using the reagent), a time out of available hours, a failure of the calibration are merely displayed as the available hours calibrations of reagents are different from each other.

According to the present invention, all of the steps that are required to start up the automatic analyzer are displayed in operation order. Furthermore, steps that are required to be operated at the present time are displayed in a manner different from those that are not required to be operated at the present time. This way, an operator of the automatic analyzer can easily understand the necessary operation such that the automatic analyzer can be started up without error.

The Examiner suggests that Mimura et al disclose an automatic analyzer having a display monitoring the analysis process by displaying the operation steps, parameter settings, maintenance, calibration, ACCURACY, control, and reagent control, or the like. Furthermore, the Examiner states that Mimura et al disclose an automatic analyzer displaying an access enable selective button with one color when

use of the operation function is permitted. An access disable selective button is displayed with another color.

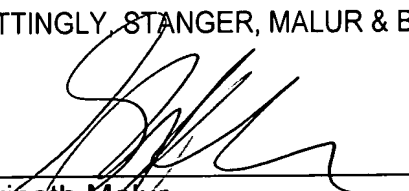
However, Mimura et al only disclose displaying operation steps as selective items without any time concept associated with an operation procedure as in the present invention. As stated above, according to the present invention, icons are displayed in operation order. The display manner does not change whether or not the selective button is access enabled. Operation steps that are required to be operated are displayed in one manner different from those that are not required to be operated.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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